

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 AND 1.98

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Attention: Examiner

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit herewith references of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to patentability of the invention disclosed and claimed in the above-cited application and with respect to which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

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I, Beverly Erdman, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Ly Erdman Signature

Serial No. 10/612,134

Applicants are submitting herewith copies of the references which are set forth on the

attached Form PT/SB/08A. As all relevant parts of the references are in the English language,

no explanation of the references is provided herein.

This Information Disclosure Statement is prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action

or a Notice of Allowance in the application but not within any time period set forth in 37 C.F.R. §

1.37(b), and the Certification set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.37(e) cannot be made. Consequently the

fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is submitted herewith. The Patent and Trademark Office is

also authorized to charge any additional fee which may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1990.

A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed in conjunction with the charge to the Deposit

Account.

Further, while the references provided in this Information Disclosure Statement may be

material to patentability pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an

admission that any reference referred to herein is prior art for this invention unless specifically

designated as such.

Also, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure

Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other

material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) exists.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Proctor Agent for Applicant

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Docket No.: BIPRI 1022086

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number. Complete if Known 10/612,134 **Application Number** Substitute for form 1449A/PTO July 2, 2003 Filing Date Kurt Daeschle INFORMATION DISCLOSURE First Named Inventor STATEMENT BY APPLICANT 3636 **Group Art Unit Examiner Name** Anthony D. Barfield (use as many sheets as necessary) of **BIPRII 1022086** 1 Attorney Docket Number Sheet **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS** U.S. Patent Document Date of Publication of Name of Patentee or Applicant Cited Document Examiner Cite Number Kind Code² MM-DD-YYYY of Cited Document Initials* (if known) 12/01/1987 4,709,962 Steinmann, Joachim **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS** Date of Foreign Patent Document Cite Name of Patentee or Publication of Exami Applicant of Cited Kind Code⁵ Cited Document No. Number⁴ ner Office³ T⁶ (if known) Document MM-DD-YYYY Initials* ΕP 1,258 211 A2 Bock, Hermann 11/20/2002 09/09/1999 DE Drabert, GmbH 19810768 **Date Considered Examiner Signature**

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent documents. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.